Numb. LVII.

THE Pennſylvania GAZETTE.

Containing the freſheſt Advices Foreign and Domeſtick.

From Tueſday, December 9. to Tueſday, December 16. 1729.

To the AUTHOR *of the* GAZETTE.

SIR,

I Send you here encloſed an excellent Piece of Satyr on the Tribe of *Commentators*, *Expoſitors*, *Annotators*, *Criticks*, &c. It came accidentally into my Hands, and as it ſeems deſign'd for publick View, I believe it will not be unentertaining to your Readers, if you give it a Place in your Paper.

ANONYMUS.

Nec regna ſocium ferre nec tæda *ſciunt.*

HAVING for twenty Years laſt paſt been very buſily employ'd, I think it now incumbent on me to acquaint the World what I have been doing: For as every *private Man* takes the Liberty of examining the *publick Conduct*, moſt certainly the *Publick* has an equal Right to be informed how every *private Man* diſpoſes of himſelf.

You muſt then know, that with infinite Labour and Aſſiduity, I have been turning over and examining whole Cart-loads of *Comments*, *Expoſitions*, *Vocabularies*, *explanatory Notes*, and *Indexes*, collating *Manuſcripts*, and ſettling their *various Readings*; and all this with an Intent to improve *the noble Art of Criticiſm*, and clear up thoſe Obſcurities in ancient *Authors*, which, either Length of *Time* or the Negligence of *Tranſcribers* has been the Cauſe of. Whereby I have attained ſuch a perfect Knowledge in Things of this Nature, that I flatter my ſelf no Writer can come amiſs to me. And having moſt at Heart the Honour of my Mother Country, I have employ'd this Skill chiefly to reſtore ſuch *old Engliſh Authors* as are neglected and almoſt loſt for want of being duely underſtood; and ſend you as a *Specimen*, an *Eſſay* on a little *Poem*, which, our *Forefathers* eſteemed ſo highly, that they ſeldom failed to implant it in the Memory of their Children ſo ſoon as they could ſpeak; tho' the *Bard* who wrote it, and the *Age* wherein he lived, cannot certainly be found out; but there is good Reaſon to believe it muſt have been ſome Time between the *Conqueſt* and the *Reformation*.

As this Piece has never yet been attempted, tho' it may move the Envy of other *Criticks*, it will, I doubt not, be greatly uſeful and entertaining to the World; and according to its Succeſs, I ſhall ſuppreſs or publiſh above an hundred Volumes, which, with inexpreſſible Pains and equal Candour, I have compiled for the Service of Mankind.

Once I was a Batchelor, and lived by my ſelf,
And all the Victuals that I had I put upon a Shelf:
But the Rats and the Mice they made ſuch a Strife,
I was forc'd to go to London *to get me a Wife.*
The Streets were ſo wide, and the Lanes were ſo narrow,
I was fain to bring my Wife home in a Wheelbarrow:
The Wheelbarrow broke, and my Wife had a Fall;
So, the D---l take the Wheelbarrow, Wife, and all!

Once I was a Batchelor,] It is the general Opinion of all the *Commentators* I have yet ſeen, that the *ingenious Author* of this *Poem*, was, even at the Time he wrote, a *married Man*; and indeed they bring ſome tolerable Reaſons for that Belief from the laſt Line of the Piece itſelf; as I ſhall ſhew in my Obſervations on it. But, whether or no this important Point can be determined, two Things ſeem evident from the Paſſage now before us; firſt, that he was a Man of Learning: And ſecondly, that he was an Admirer of thoſe Lines which were originally before the *Æneid* of *Virgil*, till taken away by *Varius*: For does he not exactly begin in the ſame Manner as *Ille ego qui quondam.*

And lived by myſelf.] This Phraſe is very ambiguous, and has cauſed much Diſpute. *Some* make it imply his *dwelling in a Houſe all alone* without any Mortal in it but himſelf: *Others* again, inſiſt, there is no Neceſſity to take the *literal Senſe* ſo ſtrictly; for ſay they, a Man may be ſaid *to live by himſelf* who has only a Servant or two about him, which cannot be called Company. *Another Sort*, ſuppoſe it only means, *his living* in a *private Manner*, and perhaps in a *lonely Houſe*, without paying or receiving Viſits: And there are again *others*, who reject all the above Opinions intirely, and make *living by himſelf* to ſignify, that he *lived* or *ſubſiſted*, or got *a Livelihood*, by his own Care and Induſtry; *id eſt*, *without the Aſſiſtance of any Body.*---- I ſhall not take upon me to determine in this nice Caſe, but leave it to the *Judicious*: however, I muſt not conceal that ſome Manuſcripts have it differently, (*viz. and lay by myſelf*,) which is indeed a much plainer Senſe, could it be prov'd genuine; but as it appears in none of the *early Copies*, it was probably introduc'd into ſome *later ones*, with Deſign to get rid of the Difficulty abovementioned: And the *Text*, as I have given it, ſeems, according to my Judgment, much more coherent with what immediately comes after.

And all the Victuals that I had I put upon a Shelf.

Much Time and Learning have been ſpent to explain the Meaning of the Word *Victuals*. *Some* make it ſignify *all Kinds of Food in general*; *others* affix it to *Particulars*, ſuch as, *Surloin of Beef*, *Veniſon Paſty*, *Gammon of Bacon*, &c. according, I ſuppoſe to every one's different Taſte. But, for my own Part, I apprehend, that every *Word* is to be underſtood according to the *Subject* about which it is employ'd; as for Inſtance, in this before us. [*Victuals*,] when ſpeaking of a ſubſtantial *Country Farmer's Table*, may ſignify *Beef*, *Mutton and Pork*, &c. when applied to the *French*, *Muſhrooms or Frogs*; and when us'd in mentioning our *City Dinners*, beſides *other Things* it muſt mean, *Fowls and Bacon*, *Gooſe*, *Turkey*, *Chickens and Aſparagus*, &c. And this will ſhew us the true Explanation of *it* in this Place; for are we not ſpeaking of a *Batchelor?* and will not every Child tell us, that *Bread and Cheeſe* and *Kiſſes* are the *Fare*, *i. e.* the *Victuals* of a *Batchelor*; *ergo*, it muſt ſignify *Bread and Cheeſe*, and nothing elſe; for tho' *Kiſſes* are added by Way of *Sauce*, they could not be put upon a *Shelf*, as we are told this was. And hereby may be ſeen how eaſily *Truth* is found out, when ſought after without *Pride* or *Prejudice*.---- The *Diet* of our preſent *Batchelors* is indeed very different, for they make whole Meals of the *Sauce* only; but in the early Days of Simplicity when our *Author* wrote, without doubt his Way of ſpeaking was ſo intelligible that no one could miſtake his Meaning.

As to the *Shelf* here mentioned, the *Learned* are at a Loſs, whether it was an *Hanging-Shelf*, or a *Shelf affixed againſt the Wall*. Some think *Hanging-Shelves* were a much later Invention,

vention, others maintain the contrary; but both Sides urge their Arguments with more of Fancy than ſound Reaſoning, and after all leave the Matter intirely in the Dark. Tho' was it poſſible to aſcertain this, the next Line would admit of no Debate, as it at preſent does.

But the Rats and the Mice they made ſuch a Striſe,

A Doubt ariſes here, whether the *Rats and Mice* got at the *Victuals*, and contended about the Diviſion, or whether they made a Noiſe and Diſturbance becauſe they could not reach it: And this cannot be eaſily cleared up unleſs the Kind of *Shelf* whereon it ſtood was known. But one Thing appears evident, tho' none of the *Commentators* have noted it, *viz.* that the *Author* kept no *Cat*; and we may reaſonably preſume had a natural Averſion *to*, and probably would have ſwooned *at* the Sight of that *Animal*. For otherwiſe, he might have ended all this *Striſe* effectually, by the Aſſiſtance of that *uſeful Creature*, without giving himſelf any farther Trouble.---- I take this to be one of thoſe *fine Paſſages*, where from an *Hint* given much is left for the *Reader*'s Imagination to ſupply, which in Writing is the greateſt Beauty.---- A common *Scribbler* can ſay every Thing upon a *Subject*, but to let the *Reader* have the Satisfaction of ſeeming to inform himſelf requires the Pen of an *able Maſter*.

I was forc'd to go to London *to get me a Wife.*

His going to *London* proves his Habitation was not there, but whereabouts he dwelt in the Country, is, I fear, a Piece of Knowledge impoſſible to come at. The Neceſſity he lay under of getting a *Wife*, we were told in the Line before; it was the Vexation which the *Rats and Mice* gave him: *Ergo*, he wanted a *Wife* to drive away the *Rats and Mice*. This is, indeed, a very odd Reaſon, and yet, perhaps, as good an one as many marry for even now a-days; and we may gueſs his going to *London* rather than any other Place, was, becauſe he imagin'd *Women* in a *great City* might be cunninger and better skill'd in making *Mouſe-Traps* than ſilly Country Girls.---- But, now, here's a *various Reading*, which is a Bone of Contention amongſt the *Learned*, for ſeveral *Manuſcripts* give the above *Line* thus, *I was forc'd to go to* London *to* buy *me a Wife:* And Numbers of *Commentators*, *Criticks*, &c. inſiſt that this is the true and genuine *Text*, and that *get* inſtead of *buy* is a ſcandalous Corruption *wilfully* and *wickedly* introduc'd in prejudice to *Womankind*; and they even charge the *Fact* on ſome *Fortune-Hunters* of a certain Nation. The *Female Criticks* are all of this Opinion, and pretend to prove, that inſtead of receiving Portions *with*, Men heretofore uſed to pay Money *for* their *Wives*, as an Acknowledgment to their Parents for the Care and Expence of their Education. They bring likewiſe a Piece of Scripture, which ſays, *Children are great Riches*, and interpret it to ſerve their own Purpoſe, as is done too frequently on many other Occaſions. They likewiſe argue with great Earneſtneſs, that this reaſonable Cuſtom (as they are pleaſed to call it) ought again to be the general Practice. But, notwithſtanding all their Warmth, I muſt on this Point beg Leave to differ from them; for I can't find ſuch a *Cuſtom* ever was eſtabliſh'd among the *Engliſh*, nor do I believe it ever will, unleſs *Wives* would be content to feed on *Mice* of their own catching, and cloth themſelves with *the Skins*. I muſt therefore inſiſt upon the *Authenticknes* of the Word *get*, nor can I ſee any Damage the *Women* ſuffer by it; for was there even an *Act made* that no Man ſhould marry unleſs he'd *buy a Wife*, the Conſequence would be ſo terrible, that in one Year's Time, I make no doubt, the whole Sex would join in a Petition to have ſuch an *Act* repealed.

Our *Author* judiciouſly paſſes over the *Courtſhip*, the *Wedding*, &c. which would have furniſh'd out a Volume to ſome Writers, and haſtens on to ſhew the Difficulties he met with immediately after Marriage.

The Streets were ſo wide, and the Lanes were ſo narrow,
I was fain to bring my Wife home in a Wheelbarrow.

This Paſſage is not ſo clear as I could wiſh: We may learn from it, however, that *Streets* and *Lanes* were in thoſe Days juſt as they are at preſent; but I can't conceive the Reaſon (for it ſeem to be made a Reaſon) why therefore he was oblig'd to bring his *Wife* home in the above Manner. Yet this may put an End to the long Diſpute about the greater Antiquity of *Wheelbarrows* and *Coaches*, in favour of the former, for what Man alive would carry his *Bride* home in a *Wheelbarrow* if there was any *Coach* to put her in? *ergo*, *Wheelbarrows* were before *Coaches*.

The Wheelbarrow broke, and my Wife had a Fall:
So, the D---l take Wheelbarrow, Wife and all.

We may here learn the Inſtability of mortal Things. Tho' we ſet out with the faireſt Hopes imaginable, Accidents one upon the Neck of another ottentimes intervene, and make that our Misfortune, which we purſued as our greateſt Happineſs! Such are the Terms of living! We therefore ought to fortify the Mind to bear them with Reſignation.

Whether the Heavineſs of the *Wife*, the Ruggedneſs of the Way, the Oldneſs of the *Wheelbarrow*, or all theſe together, occaſioned it to break, I am unable to determine; But break it did, that's certain, and probably Mrs. *Bride* was thrown into the Dirt in all her *gay Apparel*, which put the Husband in ſuch a *Paſſion* as made him wiſh both *her* and the *Wheelbarrow* at the *D---l*. This *Wiſh* (as I ſaid before) ſome *Commentators* bring to prove the *Author* was a *married Man*; for, ſay *they*, he writes in the true Spirit of an Husband, and certainly felt the Vexation he repreſents. Nay, ſome pretend to maintain, no *ſingle Man* could curſe a *Wife* ſo heartily. But, leaving theſe Conjectures, I muſt take notice of this Phraſe, [*and all.*] which is ſo beautifully added, and ſhews ſufficiently the Learning of our *Author*; for herein he plainly imitates that great Maſter *Ovid*, who abounds every where with theſe *Pleonaſms*, or Redundancies of Expreſſion; whereof I could give a thouſand Inſtances, tho' one may ſerve at preſent, *viz. Omnia Pontus erant, deerant quoque Littora Ponto.* It likewiſe proves his underſtanding the *French Language*; for was a Man to wiſh his *Wife* and her *Equipage at the D---l* in that Tongue, and had a Mind ſtill to enforce his *Wiſh*, could he do it better than by the Phraſe *& tous les deux?* tho' indeed the Meaning of our *Author* has a double Strength by uſing only half the Words; which, (by the Way) is generally the Difference between the *French* and *Engliſh Language*.

Now having gone thro' my Obſervations, I will not conceal, that ſome Writers believe this *Poem* to be merely *allegorical*; for ſay *they*, it evidently means, that when a Man finds ſome little Inconveniencies by living *ſingle*, ſuch as *careleſs*, *unruly* or *waſteful Servants*, implied by the *Rats and Mice*, and ſeeks a *Wife* to ſet his Affairs in order, immediately a thouſand unforeſeen Difficulties ariſe from the *Contrariety of their Tempers*, ſignified by *wide Streets* and *narrow Lanes*; and he is forced to make uſe of a *Wheelbarrow*, whereby they repreſent *Conjugal Affection*; 'till, ot laſt, that *breaking*, or being quite deſtroy'd by frequent *Quarrels*, the *Wife gets a Fall*, or loſes all her Power and becomes hated, and then *he wiſhes her and every Thing about him at the D---l.*

I am well aware, my *cotemporary Criticks* will cavil at this *Eſſay*, and be very angry that I depart from their eſtabliſh'd Method of Reading in order only to find Fault. I expect they will fall upon me without Mercy, but no Fear of them ſhall ever deter me from giving *Praiſe* where I believe it due, or make me ſacrifice the *Reputation* of any *Author* to *Envy* and *Ill Nature*.

To the Printers *of the* Pennſylvania Gazette.

I Send you here an Anſwer to a *Query* in your laſt Paper. It is there ſaid *A Man by Night ſhot a treſpaſſing Horſe in his Corn-field, taking the Horſe for a Deer.* Then it is *queried Whether he ought to pay for the ſame, ſince it was by Miſtake, and the Horſe a Treſpaſſer.*

I Anſwer, the Man who kill'd the Horſe ought to pay for the ſame, for two Reaſons; Firſt, becauſe the Miſtake was not barely accidental, but had more of Raſhneſs in it; And ſecondly, Becauſe the Law has provided Redreſs for ſuch as have Damage by treſpaſſing Cattle.

It may be added that the Death of the Horſe was a greater Loſs to the Owner, than the Damage done in the Corn-field could amount to; and if it were not, the Law (regarding every Man's Property impartially) does not privilege any Man, ſo injured, to take his own Satisfaction. Beſides the ill Practice of Night-watching to ſhoot Veniſon is unwarrantable, in as much as a Man by ſo doing undertakes to perform what he knows he cannot ſee to do without great Danger of committing worſe Miſtakes than ſhooting of Horſes, as have heretofore happen'd when Men have been ſhot for Deer.

Yours, *The* CASUIST.

THE Committee appointed to enquire into the *State of the Goals* did not ſtop at the *Fleet*, but proceeded to the next great Priſon for

for Debtors, to wit, the *Marſhalſea*; and on the 14th of *May*, they made a Report to the Parliament, which being read, the Houſe came to the following Reſolutions:

1. That *William Acton*, Clerk of the Priſon of the *Marſhalſea*, and Farmer of the ſaid Goal, and the Profits thereof, by Leaſe from Mr. *John Darby*, the Keeper of the ſaid Priſon, hath been Guilty of many high Crimes and Miſdemeanors in the Execution of his Office; and hath arbitrarily and unlawfully loaded with Irons, tortured and deſtroyed, in the moſt inhuman, cruel and barbarous Manner, Priſoners for Debt, under his Care, in high Violation and Contempt of the Laws of this Kingdom.

2. That the Charities given by well-diſpoſed Perſons for the Relief and Suſtenance of the Poor Debtors confined in the ſaid Priſon of the *Marſhalſea*, are notoriouſly and ſcandalouſly miſapplied; and that the Keeper of the ſaid Priſon, and his Dependants and Agents, inſtead of diſtributing the ſaid Charities to the ſaid poor Debtors, have moſt unjuſtifiably poſſeſſed themſelves thereof, and wickedly perverted the ſame to their own Uſes, to the great Fraud and Oppreſſion of the ſaid poor Priſoners in general, and to the Starving of many, who have periſhed in the ſaid Priſon for want thereof.

3. That Mr. *John Darby*, Keeper of the ſaid Priſon of the *Marſkalſea*, having contrary to, and in defiance of the Law, let to Farm his ſaid Goal and Office, and the Profits thereof, unto the ſaid *William Acton*, and having groſly neglected his Duty in not preventing or remedying the ſaid Inhumanities, Cruelties, Frauds and Abuſes, is Guilty of a high Miſdemeanor in his Office, and a notorious Breach of his Truſt, in Contempt of the Law, and to the great Oppreſſion and Ruin of many of His Majeſty's Subjects.

Then Mr. *Oglethorpe* acquainted the Houſe, That he was directed by the Committee to move, That an humble Addreſs be preſented to His Majeſty, That he will be graciouſly pleaſed to direct His Attorney-General forthwith to proſecute, in the moſt effectual Manner, the ſaid *William Acton* and *John Darby*, for their ſaid Crimes and Miſdemeanors: Which Addreſs was unanimouſly Voted.

We have no Account of the Trial of *Darby*, but the following Trial of *Acton* is extracted from the *London* and *Country Journals*.

London, Auguſt 9.

On Friday Se'nnight came on, at the Aſſizes held at *Kingſton* for the County of *Surry*, the Trial of *William Acton* for Murder. The Indictment was read, ſetting forth, that the ſaid *Acton* was Servant and Head Turnkey of the *Marſhalſea* Priſon under *John Darby*, and had the Care and Cuſtody of the Priſoners there, and being a Perſon of a barbarous and cruel Diſpoſition, on the 21ſt of *October* 1726, did felonioufly, cruelly and barbarouſly Aſſault, beat and wound *Thomas Bliſs*, a Priſoner under his Care; did put Irons and Fetters of great Weight upon the Legs, and an Iron Inſtrument or Engine of Torture upon the Head of the ſaid *Bliſs*, and Iron Thumb-ſcrews on his Thumbs, and alſo put and confined him in the *Strong Room* within the ſaid Priſon, for the Space of ſeveral Days, which is a damp, dangerous, filthy and unwholſome Place, by which Tortures, Dureſs, and cruel Abuſes, the ſaid *Bliſs* got a great Sickneſs, and continued in a languiſhing Condition until the 20th Day of *April* following, and then died. The King's Counſel called 17 Witneſſes to prove the Indictment; ſeveral of whom ſwore, that the Deceaſed (who was a Priſoner for Debt) attempting his Eſcape was taken by *Acton*, and was by him and his Servants unmercifully beat and ſtamped upon, loaded and tortured with Irons and Thumb-ſcrews, and put in the *Strong Room*, and died ſometime after, which ſome of them ſwore they believed to be the Occaſion of his Death. The Irons were produced in Court to the Witneſſes and the Jury, the great Irons called the Sheers, and the Cap or Collar, Inſtruments of terrible Torture. The Evidence for the Priſoner ſwore, that *Bliſs* had never been beaten, ironed, tortured or ſtamped upon, but died of a Fever. The Witneſſes for the King were but ſeventeen, and thoſe for the Priſoner were Twenty-one; ſo the Jury did believe the latter, being the *Majority*, and he was Acquitted. The King's Witneſſes next ſwore, That Capt. *John Bromfield* was ironed, thruſt into a little Hole, and uſed with ſuch Barbarity by the Priſoner's Order, that in few Days he died thereof. The Evidence for the Priſoner ſwore, he was no Way at all ill uſed, and that the black, blue and yellow Marks which appeared on the Body of the Deceaſed, were the Effects of the black Jaundice; the Priſoner in his Defence acknowledged the Deceaſed being ironed, but, like other great Men, threw the Blame upon his Maſter, and his Witneſſes ſwore it was done by Mr. *Darby*'s Orders. He next was tried for the Murder of *Robert Newton*, whom the King's Witneſſes ſwore was by the Priſoner's Order double ironed, and kept in the *Strong Room* until they eat into his Fleſh, and he ſickning, was removed into the ſick Ward where he ſoon died. The Priſoner's Evidence ſwore that he had not been ill uſed, and that the *Strong Room* was wholeſome, ſweet, and waſh'd every Day. Next he was try'd for the Murder of Capt. *Thomſon*: The Witneſſes for the King ſwore that *Acton* turn'd him out of his own into the *Strong Room*, where his Fleſh was mortified with lying on the Boards; and where while he was yet alive, thoſe who viſited him could ſcarce keep off the Rats, which eat his Eyes and Jaws, when he was ſcarcely cold. The Evidence for the Priſoner ſwore the *Strong Room* was newly built for the ſafe keeping of Felons, that it was the beſt Room in the Houſe, and that Mr. *Acton* out of his great Humanity, had put Capt. *Thompſon* into this

Room

Room in order to cure him of a Diabetes, under which he laboured, and of which he died; upon the whole he was acquitted of all the Indictments.

The Judges, were appointed, in their Circuits, to enquire into the *State of the Country-Goals*, and make a Report to the Committee. And they were to cauſe a Table of Fees, wrote in a fair Character, to be hung up in a common Room, in every Priſon in the Kingdom. It was found upon the Whole, that there were 95000 Priſoners for Debt in all the Goals in *England*, and it was thought no ſmall Loſs to the Nation, that ſo great a Number of uſeful Hands ſhould be kept idle, buried as it were alive, and neither themſelves nor others the better for the Labour and Induſtry they were capable of. An Act of Parliament was paſſed for their Relief, upon which near 90000 were diſcharged and ſet at Liberty; and another Act to prevent the like for the future, by which whoever delivers up all he has to his Creditors upon Oath, ſhall not be kept in Priſon, but at the Charge of the Creditors; who may if they pleaſe cauſe him to be detained, but then are obliged to allow 3*s.* 6*d. per* Week for his Maintenance.

Marſhalſea Priſon, July 16. The Joy of this Place is ſcarcely to be expreſſed, ſince this Day puts an End to our miſerable Captivity, from which the greateſt Part of us could have expected no Deliverance but Death. From the 25th of *March* laſt to this Time, we have been providentially ſubſiſted by the Contribution of the Honourable Committee, who then began to inſpect this Goal. We were then upwards of 40 deſperately Ill, and many more in a languiſhing Condition. All us Priſoners on the Common Side, who have never been leſs than 320, have ever ſince been ſubſiſted by their Charity. Bread and Beef have been provided for the Well, and the Sick have been relieved with Mutton Broth and other Proviſions, which with the Care taken of providing them Beds and Neceſſaries, and the Skill of the Apothecary appointed to attend them, ſucceeded ſo well, that from that Time to this there have not died more than 15, which is extraordinary in this Place, where from 10 to 20 in the Summer Seaſon uſed to die in a Week. Our Strength is ſo far recovered by ſuch proper Nouriſhment and Care, that there remains only two Perſons uncapable thro' Sickneſs, to go to *Guildford*; there were ſeveral indeed whom Poverty prevented, who were half naked, and in ſuch a miſerable Condition as not to be able, with Decency, to appear, particularly many of the Women, who could hope for nothing but Deſtruction, tho' they were diſcharged; ſince no one will receive or employ People who are in ſo miſerable and ragged a Condition. Thoſe who were aſſiſted by their Relations and Friends, repaired Yeſterday to *Guildford*; and all the poor Women that remained here, through Want of Cloaths, have received this Day each a Gown, an under and upper Petticoat, and Linnen, which were provided out of the Money given by the Right Honourable *Arthur Onſlow*, Eſq; Speaker of the Houſe of Commons; and we are informed that this Charity hath been extended to ſuch Women as remained on the Common Side of the King's Bench Priſon, and the County Goal of *Surry*. An Example worthy to be imitated by other Great Perſonages, to the Diſtreſſed in the other Goals of this Kingdom.

Philadelphia, December 16.

We hear from Trenton, that on Friday the 5th Inſtant, a good new Stable belonging to Mr. John Severn, was burnt down to the Ground, in which was conſumed five Load of Engliſh Hay, and ſeven Horſes were burnt to Death; occaſioned by the Careleſſneſs of a Servant, who let a Candle fall among the Hay.

About the ſame Time a Barn and Stable was burnt near Allen's-Town: The Owner attempting to ſave a good Horſe he had in the Stable, very narrowly eſcap'd with his own Life; 'tis obſerved as ſomething unaccountable in the Nature of Horſes, that they are ſo far from endeavouring to avoid the Danger of Fire, as to ſtand obſtinately and ſuffer themſelves to be burnt; nor will they be led from it unleſs firſt made blindfold.

On Tueſday the 9th Inſtant, George Philips of Byberry, in Philadelphia County, being in the Woods about to cut Timber, fell'd one Tree which lodg'd by the Top on another; he then cut a ſecond to fall acroſs the firſt, in order by the Weight of it to bring both down: but the Butt-End mounting up, ſwung round and ſtruck him on the Back of his Head, Neck and Shoulders, ſo as to kill him inſtantly.

Cuſtom-Houſe, Philadelphia, Entred inwards.

Ship Amity, William Murray, from Jamaica.
Ship Boneta, Thomas Read, from London.

Entred Outwards.

Brig. Philadelphia Hope, G. Spafford, for Weſt-Indies.
Sloop Surinam, Henry Norwood, for Barbadoes.

Cleared Out.

Sloop Adventure, Robert Rawle, to Surinam.
Ship Samuel and Ann, Thomas Glentworth, to Madera.
Brigt. Clementina, Joſeph Arthur, to Antigua.
Brigt. Henrietta, Samuel Farra, to Madera.
Ship Cupid, Stephen Pugh, to Gibraltar.
Ship Three Batchelors, William Spafford, to Barbadoes.
Ship Mary, Robert Sanders, to Iſle of Man.

Buried in the ſeveral Burying-Grounds ſince the 4th Inſtant.

Church ---------- 2.
Quakers ---------- 1.
Presbyterians ------ 0.
Baptiſts ---------- 0.
Strangers, Whites ----- 0. Blacks ------ 0.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

JUſt Imported in the Ship *Boneta*, Capt. *Thomas Reed*, Maſter, from *London*, (lying near the Market Wharff) a Parcel of very likely Servant Men and Boys, of ſundry Trades, as well as Husbandmen: To be ſold by *Edward Horne* and *William Rawle*, very Reaſonable, (as alſo good *Newcaſtle* Coal) for Caſh, Flower or Bread.

TAKEN off the Back of a Horſe, at the *George Inn* Door in *Second-Street*, on *Saturday* Evening the 13th Inſtant, a plain Engliſh Hunting Saddle, of ſtrong ſingle Leather, Ruſſet, with white lacquer'd Nails; the Skirts creaſed Work; the Houſens of dark blue Broadcloth, lac'd with light blue Orrice. Whoever ſhall bring the ſaid Saddle to *Timothy Scarth*, Tanner, at the Widow *Stacey*'s Place, or to the *New Printing-Office* in *Philadelphia*, ſhall have *Twenty-Shillings* Reward and no Queſtions ask'd; or if it is offer'd to be Sold or Pawn'd, whoever ſtops it, and ſecures the Party, and gives Notice at either of the Places aforeſaid, ſhall have the aboveſaid Reward.

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